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NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING

McAdams Initiates Neighborhood-Wide Rezoning

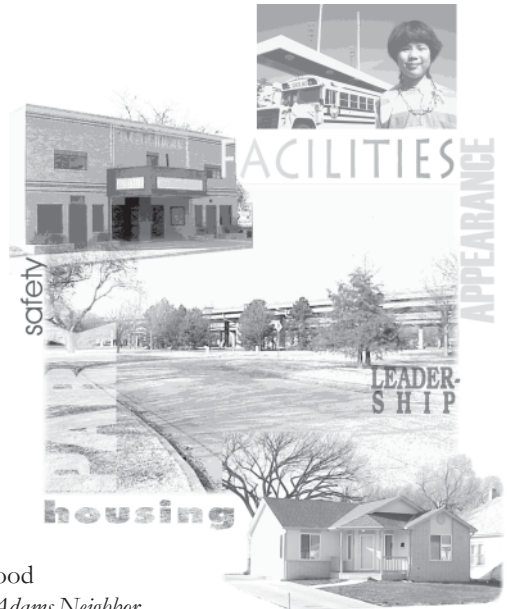
By Dave Barber, AICP

A McAdams Neighborhood Rezoning Committee has formed recently to help recommend a new zoning scheme for the McAdams neighborhood. This rezoning scheme will address all properties located within the following area: 17th Street on the north, Hydraulic on the east, Murdock/8th Street on the south, and Washington on the west.

The current zoning pattern for the McAdams neighborhood dates back over 50 years, and reflects a different vision for most of the neighborhood than has been identified in the recently adopted *McAdams Neighborhood Revitalization Plan*. The redevelopment potential and opportunities envisioned for the McAdams neighborhood over the next 20 years cannot be fully realized under the current zoning scheme.

An inventory of existing land uses and zoning is planned for completion in May 2004. An analysis and development of a preliminary rezoning scheme is planned for completion by August 2004. Public meetings will be held later this year at the McAdams Recreation Center to receive feedback on the preliminary and final rezoning schemes developed by the Committee. The Committee hopes to present its final rezoning recommendations to District Advisory Board I and the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission by November 2004.

If you would like to know more, please contact Dave Barber, MAPD offices, at 268-4490; Paula Givens, McAdams Neighborhood Association, at 264-6108; or Roger Douthett, 21st CCNR, at 264-3610.



Acknowledgements:

John L. Schlegel
Planning Director

Dave Barber
Chief Planner

Nalini Johnson
Principal Planner
268-4456

Ashley Jones
Planning Aide

Wichita-Sedgwick County
Metropolitan Area Planning
Department (MAPD)
268-4421

StreamLink Hosts First High School PLAN-it! Game

By Orrin Smith

MAPD staff presented a special edition of the PLAN-it! Game for the first time at the fourth annual StreamLink Student Gathering that took place April 7 at the Wichita Area Treatment, Education, and Remediation (WATER) Center. Twenty-nine students from local high schools were in attendance for a number of sessions and events relating to water quality and stewardship.

Students participated in a land use activity hosted by a team of planners from the MAPD Advanced Plans Division. The presentation aimed to increase awareness between the built environment, its impervious surfaces, and their effect on stream habitats and the plants and animals that live in them.

(continued on back page)

Third Inter-Municipal Planning Summit: A Great Success!

By Steve Ruger

To continue dialog among municipalities and Sedgwick County, the County held its third inter-municipal planning summit on March 27 at the Kansas Coliseum. After the first summit in November 2003 and second summit in January 2004, participants requested that a third summit be held to continue dialog about regional planning issues. Participants also wanted to gain more information about the structure of the Metropolitan Area Planning Department (MAPD). The third summit was a great success!

This summit focused on the following key points:

- An update on the Comprehensive Plan
- An overview of the legal framework for municipal planning
- A review of summit committees' recommendations from the previous summits
- An assessment of current circumstances
- A discussion of what happens next

The Sedgwick County Association of Cities (SCAC), led by Mayor Gary O'Neal of Bel Aire, will be the organization in charge of continuing the efforts set forth by the planning summits. SCAC will work closely with Sedgwick County and the MAPD to develop strategies to put in motion the recommendations made by planning summit participants. The MAPD has already been able to work closely with various municipalities to foster mutually beneficial outcomes as a result of the summits.

For more information, contact Irene Hart, Director of Community Development, Sedgwick County at 660-9863.

Small City Planning Headlines

By Nalini Johnson, AICP

City Hall for the City of Bel Aire Moves into New Facility

Park City and Wichita Agree on City Growth Boundaries



Derby Slated to Open Aquatic Park this Summer



Wichita-Sedgwick County Comprehensive and Transportation Plans

By Dave Barber, AICP

MAPD has projected the following 2030 population and employment control totals for Sedgwick County and the Wichita urbanized area, which includes all of Sedgwick County plus areas around Andover and Mulvane. Staff used Census 2000 data and baseline projections from Wichita State University (WSU). The Metropolitan Area Planning Commission approved these control totals on March 4, 2004.

	2030 Population	2030 Employment
Sedgwick County	567,000	357,000
Wichita urbanized area	580,000	362,000

MAPD staff began meeting in mid-April with key representatives from each city in the plan area in order to accurately distribute this anticipated population and employment growth throughout Sedgwick County and the Wichita urbanized area. Discussions centered on reaching consensus on local population and employment growth forecasts and future growth directions. These city meetings are slated to conclude at the end of July 2004 at which time a general joint meeting will be held with the Sedgwick County Association of Cities (SCAC) to brief all cities on the proposed 2030 growth areas.

If you would like to know more, please contact Dave Barber at 268-4421, MAPD offices.



Midtown Neighborhood Plan Adopted

By Nalini Johnson, AICP

Following a two-year plan development process, the Wichita City Council and the Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners this month adopted the *Midtown Neighborhood Plan* as an amendment of the Wichita-Sedgwick County Comprehensive Plan.

The mission of the plan is:

To enhance the appearance, safety and quality of life in Midtown to make it an attractive and desirable place to live, work and play for the benefit of all residents, businesses, visitors and property owners.

The plan contains the following nine goals:

- Build a sense of community and responsibility
- Maintain and improve the character of the neighborhood
- Encourage attractive, affordable and well-maintained housing
- Preserve and enhance Historically-designated homes and districts
- Encourage a safe and peaceful neighborhood
- Improve park and recreational space experiences and encourage the use of parks
- Eliminate storm water drainage problems
- Eliminate speeding traffic, enhance pedestrian and vehicular safety and circulation, and encourage walking
- Add and maintain neighborhood shops and businesses

The plan also outlines policies, land use recommendations and specific studies that together seek to maintain the residential character of the neighborhood. The plan document also provides for the development of a linear greenway to connect three neighborhood schools, and guide future redevelopment along key areas of the neighborhood.

The Riverside Citizens' Association, the Wichita Independent Neighbors, and the Historic Midtown Citizens' Association (HMCA), are among the local agencies that have supported the planning process since the beginning. HMCA is now poised to begin working on the implementation of this 20-year plan.

The plan has been made available online and in print, and was presented in detail to the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC) on March 11, 2004. It was adopted by the City Council on May 11, and by the County Board of Commissioners on May 19.

For more information, contact Nalini Johnson, Principal Planner.



E.A.R.T.H. Workshop PLAN-it!: Fun Learning for All

By Nalini Johnson, AICP

Middle-school students from 12 area schools joined adult volunteers and environmental professionals in a day of hands-on learning at the annual Earth Awareness Researchers for Tomorrow's Habitat (E.A.R.T.H.) Workshop 2004, which took place April 27-28.

The mission of the workshop is to provide *innovative, experiential learning opportunities to help young people become wise stewards of their environment.* "Students from Mead Middle School wrote thank-you letters about their favorite part of the workshop," said Tonya Bronleewe, E.A.R.T.H. Program Coordinator.

"I learned that you can make a lot of different things out of some land. We got a big sheet of paper that had houses and water, we had to use markers and draw buildings, restaurants, parks, and houses to make a city. I enjoyed it," wrote a student about the PLAN-it! Game.

"We made our own city. I loved it, and hope we do it again," another student wrote.

Other students had this to say: "My favorite workshop was designing a city. I liked this activity because we got to have our own say and it was hands-on. I think learning about the environment is very important because people do not realize how bad they are hurting it. Our environment is important and we should keep it clean."

"My favorite activity was when we made a city and planned where everything was, because it was fun to see how it would work out."

"I learned that people have to approve of a spot to build a house to make sure it is environmentally safe."

Ms. Bronleewe also gave out "thumbs up and thumbs down" evaluations of the presentations. "Of the responses I got back for the Metro Plan session, 88% 'had fun' and 84% 'learned something.'" Clearly, the PLAN-it! Game was well received by workshop students.

The workshop took place at the Sedgwick County Extension Center.

For more information about E.A.R.T.H., contact Tonya Bronleewe at (316) 722-7721, or by email at tonyab@oznet.ksu.edu.

StreamLink (from page 1)



Source: Center for Watershed Protection

The City’s Storm Water Engineer, Shawn Bryan, contributed to the exercise by explaining how water behaves in the natural and built environments.

Monty Munyon of the Sedgwick County Conservation District was on hand to talk about stream morphology while Andy Megrail from EARTH discussed “best management practices” and Brian Fischer from the City of Wichita presented on groundwater quality. Kristen Hase of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks was also there to go over the KDWP Stream Assessment Monitoring Program.

Perhaps the most unique of the sessions, however, was local artist Chris Frank, who presented on art and the environment while displaying some of his “found art” pieces around the Center.

A mentor luncheon exposed students to a wide variety of career paths that are influenced by the environment. Hopefully, participants came away with a better understanding of the collective efforts being made to protect, conserve, and increase awareness of water and natural resources.

A stewardship event that involved cleaning trash and algae out of a small stream that flows from the WATER Center to the nearby Arkansas River also took place. The students then planted various wetland plants including fox sedge and wild iris. At the end of the day everyone went home tired but hopefully full of new ideas and an increased respect for water quality.

To learn more about the MAPD PLAN-it! Game, contact Nalini Johnson. To learn more about StreamLink, contact StreamLink at (785) 840-0700 or go to the web at www.streamlink.org.



WICHITA-SEDGWICK COUNTY

Planning



DEPARTMENT

Advanced Plans Division

455 N. Main, 10th Floor
Wichita, KS 67202
Phone: 316-268-4421
Fax: 316-268-4390

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www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Planning/



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